

Appln. No.: 09/994,333

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 and 24-26 are pending in this application. Independent claims 1, 13, and 25 have been amended to include subject matter of claim 23, which was identified as included allowable subject matter. Claim 23 has been canceled. Amendments have been made to some of the dependent claims to make them grammatically consistent with the amended independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner stated that claims 23-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has revised the independent claim 13 to include the features of allowable claim 23, and claim 24 has been amended to depend from amended claim 13.


In addition, independent claims 1 and 25 have been amended to include steps corresponding to the allowable subject matter in claim 23.

§ 103 Obviousness rejections

Claims 1-22 and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over asserted references. Applicants submit that by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claims 23 into the independent claims 1, 13, and 25, the amended claims and their dependents are allowable, and that the rejections may be withdrawn.

All issues having been addressed favorable action on this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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